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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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NO
Iran-USSR: [Iran has informed UN Secretary General Ham-
marskjold that if Soviet press and radio attacks continue, it will
be "compelled" to take the matter before the United Nations.
Hammaraskjold has advised the Soviet UN delegate of Iran's con-
cern and has indicated that he will discuss the subject during his
forthcoming trip to Moscow.]

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OK
Rhodesia-Nyasaland: (The actions taken on 3 March by the
Nyasaland Government against African nationalists included the
arrest of extremist leader Hastings Banda, who has been seeking
the role of martyr as a means of increasing the influence of
African extremists throughout the federation. A campaign of

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DAILY BRIEF

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(civil disobedience and antiwhite violence may follow, particularly in Nyasaland where the government's crackdown has already provoked new rioting. The situation in the federation has become a partisan issue in British politics; the expulsion and rough handling of a visiting British Labor MP by federation authorities may spur demands for a complete reappraisal of London's Central African policy.)

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III. THE WEST

N/O
*France: (The French representative to NATO expects instructions, probably on 4 March, to notify NATO of De Gaulle's recent decision to withdraw the French fleet from its present status in NATO. The representative added that every effort would be made to keep the move secret, and that from "a military point of view" the fleet would still cooperate with the NATO commands.)

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OK
Panama: Open dissatisfaction with President Ernesto de la Guardia has caused dissension within the governing coalition party and is probably encouraging activity among numerous groups known to be plotting to overthrow the government. A number of officers and soldiers and three civilians were arrested on 2 March and accused of plotting a coup. They were said to be planning seizure of guard commandants who have been De la Guardia's chief support.

N/O
*Bolivia: A scheduled mass demonstration at the funeral on 4 March of a student killed in Monday's rioting may incite new anti-American riots and increase Bolivian instability. The central labor organization, which has participated in recent riots and is led by President Siles' powerful left-wing rival, apparently plans to join the demonstration. Meanwhile, US prestige is reported to be suffering badly in provincial cities where usually friendly elements have become almost indifferent to anti-American violence.

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DAILY BRIEF

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OK
*Colombia: A large-scale and violent antigovernment demonstration by students in Bogota on 3 March may be part of a developing nationwide plan by opposition elements to undermine the authority of President Lleras' national-front government of Conservatives and Liberals. Since early January Communist agitators have been in the forefront of periodic demonstrations against increased bus fares, a bona fide public grievance which dissident Conservatives and possibly followers of former dictator Rojas are attempting to magnify. [REDACTED]
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DAILY BRIEF

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Iran-USSR

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[Iran is threatening to complain to the United Nations if the violent Soviet radio and press campaigns against the Shah and other Iranian leaders continue. The Iranian delegate to the United Nations gave this information to Secretary General Hammarskjold on 2 March and the latter reportedly informed Soviet delegate Sobolev of the contemplated Iranian action. Hammarskjold also plans to discuss the question with Soviet officials following his arrival in Moscow on 24 March.]

[The Soviet propaganda campaign against Iran began immediately after the 10 February collapse of Iranian-Soviet negotiations for a nonaggression pact. The Shah has reacted angrily but with increasing apprehension to the Soviet attacks which, in Iranian eyes, have become open attempts at inciting the Iranian population to revolt.]

[Iranian leaders originally discussed the possibility of severing diplomatic relations with the USSR. Subsequently, they have concentrated attention on the Soviet-Iranian Treaty of 1921, which permitted the USSR to move troops into Iran under certain conditions. Threats to denounce the pertinent articles of the treaty have been followed by a Foreign Ministry statement that Iran finds those articles no longer applicable.]

[The present warning to Hammarskjold may be designed primarily to emphasize to him and to Western leaders the increasing danger faced by Iran and its need for continued support in the face of Soviet provocations.]

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Situation Deteriorating in Nyasaland

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[The government of the British protectorate of Nyasaland on 3 March took action against the African nationalists who have been provoking disorders since January. The governor, apparently yielding to pressure from the settler-dominated governments of Southern Rhodesia and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, proclaimed a state of emergency, banned African nationalist parties, arrested prominent nationalist leaders, and deported extremist Dr. Hastings Banda to Southern Rhodesia. This action provoked a renewal of nationalist rioting which caused at least 20 African deaths.]

[Banda's deportation will make him a martyr in the eyes of his followers and may increase the influence of African extremists throughout the federation. Meanwhile the continued Nyasaland disorders tend to harden the racial attitudes of European settlers. Banda's arrest may lead to a campaign of civil disobedience aimed at disrupting transport. Extremists may assassinate some Europeans to get arms and ammunition.]

[The Nyasaland governor admits that police action cannot control the situation and believes that constitutional reform to increase African participation in the government is needed. In February, a top Colonial Office official canceled plans to come to Nyasaland to discuss reforms when he was unable to obtain Banda's cooperation.]

[In London, the British Labor party's criticism of present policy will increase as a result of the Rhodesian Government's forcible deportation of Labor MP Stonehouse, who was touring the area under African nationalist sponsorship. Although top levels of the British Government have become increasingly concerned over general African problems and there appears to be growing sentiment that a complete reappraisal of London's Central African policy is needed, the Colonial Office is believed to have no specific program at this time.]

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III. THE WEST

Renewed Opposition to Panamanian President

A struggle for control of Panama's governing coalition party (CPN) has again raised political tensions which may result in renewed attempts to oust President de la Guardia. One such attempt was apparently uncovered on 2 March when the commandants of Panama's armed force, the National Guard, arrested nearly 40 guard officers and men and several civilians.

Leaders of the majority faction in the CPN, UN delegate Alejandro Remon and Second Vice President Barletta, have criticized recent presidential appointments, but their real target may be former President Ricardo Arias, now ambassador to Washington, who is making a determined bid for the impending CPN presidential nomination. Arias, an acknowledged leader of the coalition's other major faction--to which De la Guardia belongs, is probably the most powerful member politically and economically of the oligarchy which has ruled Panama since its independence from Colombia in 1903.

Remon, who also has presidential ambitions, has evidently lost power in the past year, most recently when De la Guardia replaced the corrupt and Remon-dominated Panama City municipal council on 24 February in response to public pressure. If Remon becomes convinced that his influence in the administration and the coalition is seriously threatened, he might try to make a deal with dissident First Vice President Diaz, who has been involved in several attempts to oust De la Guardia. The civilians arrested on 2 March were Diaz followers, but he is not known to have been involved.

The three powerful guard commandants have political and personal ties with various critics of the President. However,

they probably will continue, at least for a time, to support De la Guardia, who has not interfered with their side activities in his attempts to improve Panama's government.

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New Anti-American Rioting May Occur in Bolivia

A scheduled mass demonstration at a funeral on 4 March of a student killed in Monday's rioting may incite new anti-American violence and increase Bolivian instability. The central labor organization, which has participated in recent riots and is led by President Siles' powerful left-wing rival, has indicated it will march with students escorting the body. A group of armed miners who usually support President Siles are expected to arrive in La Paz and may clash with the demonstrators. The regular armed forces would be unable to control a clash between the two groups.

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[A simultaneous demonstration protesting the Time magazine article is planned for the provincial city of Cochabamba on 4 March.] The American consulate there reports that the national government has ordered all local department heads, party leaders, and police to give the strongest protection to US citizens and property, but that US prestige is suffering badly and normally friendly elements have become almost indifferent to anti-American violence.

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Student Violence in Colombia

A sizable and violent student demonstration in Bogota on 3 March against recent increases in city bus fares reportedly caused serious damage and injuries and may be part of a developing plan by opposition elements to undermine President Lleras' coalition government of Liberals and Conservatives. Since early January, Communist agitators have been prominent in periodic student-worker demonstrations against the fare increases and they were probably involved in recent serious rioting in provincial cities. Since regaining legal status in late 1957, the Communists have displayed increasing capability for exploiting popular unrest and strikes. Colombia's second largest labor organization, in which Communists have won a strong minority influence, now has reversed its initial decision to support the fare increases.

Dissident Conservative elements apparently have been supporting the demonstrators in an effort to embarrass the government. In addition, followers of former dictator Rojas, now on trial for misconduct during his presidential term, may be expected to support any opposition activity against the government. Rojas himself was placed under detention last December for alleged plotting to overthrow the incumbent regime.

The government's use of strong repressive measures against the demonstrators is likely to erode its popular support and stimulate non-Communist opposition activity. On the other hand, the government is likely to lose considerable face and establish a precedent for mass agitation against its authority if it backs down on the fare increases. Indecision could provoke additional and more serious violence.

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